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THE PELICAN

Unwieldy, huge, with no defined
Plexus to gauge his gravity,
An ancient mariner he stands,
And gravely bends his gaze on me.

His black eyes twinkle; he confirms
The memory of some struggling fish
Caught like a jewel in his beak,
Which serves him both as bowl and dish.

The fringed rock buttressing the spray,
The burnished kelp, the sea, the sky,
He views with quiet nonchalance
And elephantine majesty.

With legs wide-spread, and solemn mien,
Like some old graybeard of the seas,
He balances his heavy chest—
A metamorphic Socrates.

Alice Louise Jones